



The New Castle Crier

The Official Newsletter of New Castle City

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**Trustee
Education
Grant Fund -
Deadline July 1st**
see back page for details



City News

*The next Regular
City Council meeting
is 7 p.m.,
Tues., July 14th at
Town Hall*

**City Offices will be
closed on
Friday, July 3rd
in observance of
Independence Day.**

**There will be NO Recycle
Collection on
Friday, July 3rd;
There will be a
CITYWIDE
Recycle Pick Up on
Thursday, July 2nd**

**MSC Offices will be
closed on
Friday, July 3rd and
Monday, July 6th
in observance of
Independence Day.**

**Wednesday Evening
Concerts in Battery
Park are scheduled to
start on Wed., July 1st.
6:30—8:00 p.m.**

**Distancing and mask
procedures will follow
State guidelines.**

**Tentative Schedule
(Subject to change)**
7/1 : Late for Dinner
7/8 : The Stone Shakers
7/15 : The Jimmies
7/22 : Jimmy Pritchard
7/29 : Blue Cat Blues
8/5 : Zydeco-A-Go-Go



The City Council has Passed its 2021 Fiscal Year Budget with No Tax Increase to Residents or Businesses.

There are many ways to pay your tax bills, and they are listed below. Should you need to, or choose to pay your tax bill in person at the City office located at 220 Delaware Street, we ask that, due to the continuing pandemic, you call our office to make an appointment to stop by. We believe this is in the best interests of residents and employees in helping to keep everyone safe.

Should you have any questions concerning taxes, please call us at:
(302) 322-9804

- Payments are accepted online by going to www.newcastlecity.delaware.gov, and clicking "Online Bill Pay" at the bottom of the page.
- Check and money order payments are accepted at the New Castle Administration Building, located at 220 Delaware Street, New Castle. A drop box is available for making check and money order payments 24 hours a day in the front door entrance of the New Castle Administration Building.
- Cash payments are accepted by appointment only. Please call (302) 322-9804 to make an appointment between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- If you lose or misplace the self-addressed envelope that was sent with the bills, you can mail your payment to:

**City of New Castle
220 Delaware Street
New Castle, DE 19720**

DO NOT postdate your check, as it will not affect the processing date. Your check will be processed when received. Please sign your check as well.

Billing Schedule

The 2020 tax billings will be mailed the second week of July 2020. If you have not received your bill by July 31, 2020, call New Castle Finance department at 302-322-9804.

If you do not escrow your taxes, be sure to call if you do not receive your City tax bill by July 31, 2020.

2% Discount: Current year property taxes paid in full on or before August 31, 2020* will receive a 2% discount.

Property taxes will be due **Wednesday, September 30, 2020***. Any FY21 balances that remain on accounts as of October 1, 2020 are subject to a 6% penalty, with all other balances subject to a 1.5% penalty.

***Mailed payments must be received by the city on, or before the due dates posted above. Postmarks will not be considered.**

New Castle — The First Capital of the First State!

The most picturesque and historic waterfront community on the East Coast!



Trustees Educational Grant Fund

Application Packets are Available
Online at www.trusteesncc.org/grants

The "Trustees of New Castle Common Educational Grant Fund" was established in 1983 for eligible residents of the City New Castle.

An applicant must be a senior in high school or a recent high school graduate who is entering freshman year in an accredited undergraduate college or university as a full-time student in the coming September.

The grants are awarded to **full-time residents** of the City of New Castle. High school seniors must provide a high school transcript and an acceptance letter from a college or university in order to be considered for the grant. If the applicant is a dependent, the parent must be a resident of the City of New Castle.

Funded applicants from previous years who continue to be a **student in good standing** are invited to reapply.

Application packets are available from the Trustees of New Castle Commons, 201 Delaware Street, New Castle or online at www.trusteesncc.org/grants. Please call 322-2809 with any questions about the process or about residency in the City of New Castle.

Please note the application and necessary information must be received by the Education Grant Committee no later than July 1, 2020.

Municipal Services Commission 2020 Spring Hydrant Flushing Program



The Municipal Services Commission Water Department will begin the Spring Fire Hydrant Flushing Program on Monday, June 29th. Flushing will begin at 7:30am and end at 3:00pm Monday through Friday taking approximately 10 business days to complete. The Hydrant Flushing Program is an integral part of MSC's goal to deliver the safest and highest quality water possible. Additionally, it improves fire protection by testing the operation of our hydrants.

The Municipal Services Commission schedules the flushing program when demands are lower so customers should not experience service interruptions during the flushing process.

The flushing process may cause some temporary water discoloration. There is no health hazard associated with the discolored water. If you notice discolored water, run several cold water taps at the same time until the water is clear. Avoid using hot water and doing laundry until you are sure the water is clear.

Please exercise caution while traveling around the hydrant flushing crews as water may accumulate in the flushing area.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact the Municipal Services Commission Water Department at 302-323-2333 between 7:00am and 3:30pm Monday through Friday.

Consider GrassCycling!

Mulching grass clippings back into your lawn means less labor and healthier turf for you and big savings in landfill fees for the City.



During Budget meetings City Council discussed ways to balance the City Budget during this time of so many unknowns. The City spends many thousands of dollars each year for yard waste to be taken to the landfill. Everyone can help reduce this cost by reducing the green waste they put out for pick up. One way to do that is GrassCycling.

GrassCycling is the practice of not bagging or raking up your lawn clippings as you mow. The benefits are obvious. You're not stopping to empty the mower bag every time it fills. And you're not filling up the local landfill with green waste from your yard. By reducing the huge quantities of clippings going into landfills city taxpayers will save thousands of dollars in tipping fees.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 18% of what goes into landfills comes from yard waste. This jumps to as much as 50% at the height of the growing season. No wonder our landfills are filling up so quickly, and no wonder so many communities are urging their citizens to recycle grass clippings in their towns. But the benefits don't stop at the landfill. GrassCycling is also great for your lawn, holding in moisture, adding nitrogen to the soil, and preventing (not encouraging, as many of us were taught years back) the growth of thatch.

Optimal GrassCycling techniques include:

- cutting no more than 1/3 the length of the grass;
- cutting when the grass is dry;
- cutting when the height is between 3 and 4 inches;
- ensuring that the mower blade is sharp.

A mulching mower works better, but is not required for GrassCycling.